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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

PRESENTATION TO MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, FOUNDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: As the members of the International Council of Nurses which met in London last July have now scattered to the four quarters of the globe, may I be permitted through the courtesy of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING to thank all the American nurses who so kindly subscribed to my international gift, to commemorate the founding of the International Council of Nurses?

Our president, Fraulein Agnes Karll, in notifying me of this generous token of professional friendship, asked me to select the gift, and with great pleasure I have chosen a fine old English silver salver of pure Chippendale design, made by the worthy silversmith William Peaston in the year 1752. It has been suitably inscribed, and was recently presented to me by Miss Isla Stewart, matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

This beautiful testimonial—the first I have accepted during the twenty years I have been privileged to work publicly for the organization of the noble profession of nursing—will ever remain one of my most valued possessions, as symbolizing the good fellowship and fine humanitarian feeling which are the inspiration of our International Council of Nurses.

With affectionate regard I remain, Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

USE OF ALCOHOL

DEAR EDITOR: The use and abuse of alcohol are due to imperfect teaching very largely. Pupils should be made to understand that the rubbing of the back and other parts to prevent bedsores is of more importance than the alcohol. Of late years I use very little alcohol, as it is expensive and difficult to get in the country, and I have no trouble from bedsores. MONTANA.

ANSWERS TO EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

DEAR EDITOR: I feel that the JOURNAL is of so much interest and holds the nurses all over the country in close touch with one another, I am sorry for those who must do without it. You have my best wishes for another year.

I enclose a few answers to some recent examination questions which may be instructive as well as amusing.

Question. What is lavage?

Answer. Lavage is a secretion that comes from the larynx.

Question. Give the composition of air.

Answer. Air contains oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, phosphorus, with a trace of chloride of sodium and sulphur.

Question. What could a nurse do to produce emesis? To control it?

Answer. Don't allow the patient to exercise too early, or to walk, or she will be deformed for life.

Question. What do you consider an ideal diet?

Answer. Steak, rolls, fried eggs, French-fried potatoes, and peaches and cream.

Answer. Eggs, buttermilk, and sweet milk *is* an ideal diet. P. E. C.

[Who can say that regulation of nursing education by the state is not needed?]

ENLIGHTENMENT NEEDED

DEAR EDITOR: Some weeks ago I was asked to relieve a nurse at a confinement case, the baby having come later than was expected and the nurse having other business. The baby was four days old. The fifth day there was a very slight discharge from the eyes, so slight that I doubt if the experienced nurse who had been at the case would have noticed it, but it developed into ophthalmia, though the doctor, a woman, did not so designate it.

The mother asked a number of questions concerning the probable cause, saying that the previous child "had had dreadfully sore eyes." Finally I told her that the eyes were infected during birth,—"probably because he opened his eyes too soon; he is so awfully curious." The mother is well educated and the family is more than well to do.

This same lady had provided two quarts of alcohol for use during her lying-in period and said the two experienced nurses she had had used that amount. I used about a pint of the alcohol. The doctor bathed the baby the first time herself; the navel was slightly infected also. What else could I have told the mother? M.

DELEGATES' EXPENSES

DEAR EDITOR: In response to the request of "L" in the December JOURNAL, I submit for comparison an itemized account of my expenses as delegate from a far western state. Let me explain that the hotel item is small because I occupied a cot in a room with two other delegates. The item for meals includes meals on the journey both ways.

Railroad fare, round trip	$73.50
Pullman, both ways	33.50
Hotel (room)	11.00
Meals	28.10
Baggage	2.75
Fees	2.80
Total	$151.65

G. C.

A FRIENDLY WORD

DEAR EDITOR: Truly I get from the JOURNAL all the professional food that a normal brain requires to keep stimulated and do still better things. The November number was especially interesting, but the last is always the best.

A MICHIGAN READER.

THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH AND THE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

DEAR EDITOR: Will you please tell me where I can get the Hippocratic Oath and the Florence Nightingale Pledge?

I am very much interested in the subject of moral prophylaxis and feel that every nurse should realize the opportunity she has for an influence for good in